

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the formality objections, the title, Abstract and claims have been amended above in an effort to obviate all such formality-based outstanding objections/rejections.

The formality-based drawing objections have been noted on Form PTO-948 and will be obviated by suitably corrected substitute formal drawings to be filed in response to a Notice of Allowance.

Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the applicant's favor.

The rejection of claims 2-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Dawson '490 is respectfully traversed.

The applicant has described method and apparatus for remote control of a distributed television broadcasting system from a central site. Besides "global" broadcast programming downloaded to distributed broadcast transmitter sites, the central site also downloads control signals and alternate program data to the various remote sites. A bi-directional digital signal communication link is also used as a part of an error correction loop and/or control loop. The remote control includes an ability to interrupt standard "global" broadcast re-transmissions while transmitting a respectively corresponding alternate program that has been locally generated from the downloaded control signals and/or alternate program data. Alternatively, the remote control may simply overlay or otherwise composite alternate program signals locally generated from the

downloaded control signals and/or alternate program data onto the global broadcast re-transmissions. The dependent claims add yet further details to the applicant's claimed invention.

By contrast, Dawson '490 is concerned only with downloading video/audio files from a central location to a plurality of distribution sites. Although a bi-directional datalink is employed as part of an error correction loop, Dawson et al does not appear to have any teaching or suggestion relevant to applicant's remote control features. In particular, the Examiner's allegation that Dawson includes some kind of disclosure for synchronously cutting off the general central broadcast in all of the remote stations or in some of them so as to fully automatically insert something downloaded from a television continuity studio appears to be based on column 4, lines 29-55. However, this portion of the Dawson et al teaching relates merely to error detection and correction features and has nothing whatever to do with control of the local ongoing broadcast functions of the cable head-end station in question.

Accordingly, new independent method claim 12 and independent apparatus claim 22 are clearly and patentably distinct from any possible teaching or suggestion of Dawson. The dependent method and apparatus claims add yet further patentable distinction.

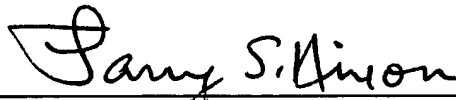
Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

ARAS
Serial No. 09/331,756

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry S. Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100